



## Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

### *Employment by Size Class – March 2005*



The Rhode Island economy is characterized by a large number of small companies employing a small number of workers. As of March 2005, there were 32,533 private businesses in the state employing 402,590 workers. Small employers, those with less than twenty employees, represented nearly 90 percent of all employers in the state and employed one quarter (25.7%) of the workforce. Mid-sized companies (20 to 249 employees) employed over 43 percent of the private sector employment and accounted for nearly 10 percent of the firms. During the year, large companies with 250 or more employees generated work for 31 percent of Rhode Island's private sector workforce. There are just 591 firms in the state employing 100 or more workers. Together, they employ nearly half (46.7%) of the state's private sector employees. The largest employers, those with 1,000 or more employees, numbered 34 and employed 16.3 percent of Rhode Island's private sector.

The highest concentration of small firms is found in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (98.2%) sector, followed by Construction (96.0%), Other Services (95.9%), Professional & Technical Services (95.0%), and Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (94.5%). The Utilities sector had the smallest percentage of small firms (75.0%) followed by Manufacturing (75.4%), and Educational Services (75.8%). Of the 591 firms in the state employing 100 or more workers, half were concentrated in Health Care & Social Assistance (137), Manufacturing (110), and Retail Trade (71).

The Rhode Island economy experienced an increase of 488 (1.5%) firms coupled with an employment gain of 5,809 (1.5%) between March 2004 and March 2005. Over the year, the largest gains on both a numeric and percentage basis were noted among small employers. Firms with less than twenty workers increased by 466 (1.6%) coupled with an employment gain of 2,975 (3.0%). Mid-size employers (20 to 249) increased by 23 (0.7%) in number and with an employment gain of 1,825 (1.1%). While the number of large firms decreased by 1 (0.6%), the number of jobs in this category was up by 1,009 (0.8%).

***It is important to note that changes in size class data are influenced by the switching of employers from one size class to another as well as by new firms coming into the state.*** For example, the number of firms in the 50-99 size class increased by 28 over the year. This increase is likely the result of smaller firms adding jobs, larger firms losing jobs and new firms opening in the state.

Private Sector Employment				
Size Class	Employers		Employment	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total:	32,533	100%	402,590	100%
zero	5,713	17.6%	0	0.0%
1 - 4	15,428	47.4%	30,070	7.5%
5 - 9	5,024	15.4%	33,065	8.2%
10 - 19	2,990	9.2%	40,456	10.0%
20 - 49	2,087	6.4%	63,161	15.7%
50 - 99	700	2.2%	48,109	11.9%
100 - 249	420	1.3%	63,751	15.8%
250 - 499	105	0.3%	36,484	9.1%
500 - 999	32	0.1%	22,018	5.5%
1000+	34	0.1%	65,476	16.3%

**Rhode Island Private Covered Employers  
Size Class by Industry  
March 2005**

Major Industry	Firms/ Employees	Total Private	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES									
			0	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1000+
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b># of Firms</b>	<b>32,533</b>	<b>5,713</b>	<b>15,428</b>	<b>5,024</b>	<b>2,990</b>	<b>2,087</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>
	<b># of Employees</b>	<b>402,590</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,070</b>	<b>33,065</b>	<b>40,456</b>	<b>63,161</b>	<b>48,109</b>	<b>63,751</b>	<b>36,484</b>	<b>22,018</b>	<b>65,476</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	<b># of Firms</b>	163	45	82	20	13	3					
	<b># of Employees</b>	553	0	162	120	182	89					
Mining	<b># of Firms</b>	23	4	9	4	3	3					
	<b># of Employees</b>	184	0	24	26	42	92					
Utilities	<b># of Firms</b>	24	5	10	1	2	3	1		1	1	
	<b># of Employees</b>	1,311	0	16	9	30	99	67		464	626	
Construction	<b># of Firms</b>	4,153	1,164	1,969	567	287	132	21	11	2		
	<b># of Employees</b>	18,657	0	3,894	3,619	3,852	3,850	1,490	1,437	515		
Manufacturing	<b># of Firms</b>	2,208	200	750	417	297	294	140	76	26	4	4
	<b># of Employees</b>	56,905	0	1,695	2,845	4,154	8,997	9,759	11,517	9,380	2,627	5,931
Wholesale Trade	<b># of Firms</b>	2,789	481	1,619	305	197	131	40	15	1		
	<b># of Employees</b>	16,237	0	2,683	2,015	2,643	3,876	2,584	2,172	264		
Retail Trade	<b># of Firms</b>	3,519	434	1,595	672	386	269	92	48	14	4	5
	<b># of Employees</b>	51,534	0	3,466	4,395	5,147	8,200	6,265	6,810	4,791	2,318	10,142
Transportation & Warehousing	<b># of Firms</b>	710	155	324	94	56	50	18	10	1	1	1
	<b># of Employees</b>	8,323	0	600	622	733	1,514	1,183	1,302	478	886	1,005
Information	<b># of Firms</b>	531	131	247	53	36	32	10	18	1	2	1
	<b># of Employees</b>	8,716	0	410	348	477	902	721	2,560	342	1,770	1,186
Finance & Insurance	<b># of Firms</b>	1,326	192	654	204	125	82	30	21	8	5	5
	<b># of Employees</b>	29,699	0	1,262	1,365	1,703	2,557	2,101	3,363	2,598	3,372	11,378
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	<b># of Firms</b>	1,074	161	643	137	74	38	11	10			
	<b># of Employees</b>	6,635	0	1,279	892	1,018	1,177	684	1,585			
Professional & Technical Services	<b># of Firms</b>	3,697	700	2,099	472	241	136	33	13	2	1	
	<b># of Employees</b>	20,485	0	3,827	3,089	3,258	4,048	2,333	2,214	666	1,050	
Management of & Enterprises	<b># of Firms</b>	103	12	55	13	8	9	3		1	1	1
	<b># of Employees</b>	4,508	0	91	74	128	287	203		303	626	2,796
Administrative & Waste Services	<b># of Firms</b>	2,168	702	862	248	142	119	49	33	9	3	1
	<b># of Employees</b>	23,373	0	1,605	1,606	1,925	3,525	3,356	5,387	3,137	1,776	1,056
Educational Services	<b># of Firms</b>	438	91	152	53	36	66	20	11	3	2	4
	<b># of Employees</b>	17,736	0	269	349	513	2,060	1,394	1,573	1,193	1,689	8,696
Health Care & Social Assistance	<b># of Firms</b>	2,521	130	973	575	364	231	111	97	25	7	8
	<b># of Employees</b>	73,171	0	2,225	3,788	4,814	7,098	7,766	14,976	8,366	5,093	19,045
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	<b># of Firms</b>	536	108	214	104	53	37	12	7		1	
	<b># of Employees</b>	5,805	0	437	684	719	1,174	792	1,306		693	
Accommodation & Food Services	<b># of Firms</b>	2,531	369	748	495	426	350	91	38	11	1	2
	<b># of Employees</b>	40,103	0	1,728	3,355	5,935	10,582	6,182	5,664	3,987	542	2,128
Other services, (except Public )	<b># of Firms</b>	3,265	337	1,964	587	244	102	18	12			1
	<b># of Employees</b>	18,110	0	3,871	3,845	3,183	3,034	1,229	1,885			1,063